

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LUSAKA 01009 040800Z

21

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /007 W  
----- 042128

O 031545Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1688

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 1009

FOR AMBASSADOR WILKOWSKI, AF/E -- EYES ONLY

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ZA

SUBJECT: EDITORIAL ATTACK ON PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY

1. SEPTTEL PROVIDES FULL TEXT OF MOST VIRULENT ZAMBIAN PRESS ATTACK BY FAR ON AMERICAN LEADERSHIP IN OUR MEMORY. JUNE 1 SUNDAY TIMES PAGE ONE "COMMENT" COLUMN CHARACTERIZES PRESIDENT FORD AND SECRETARY KISSINGER AS "PRANCING AROUND EUROPE LIKE A PAIR OF 'SICK' COMEDIANS" BOASTING ABOUT THE "SHAMEFUL MAYAGUEZ AFFAIR"; EUROPEANS WHO ARE "NOT SICKENED BY THIS SPECTACLE...NEED TO HAVE THEIR HEADS EXAMINED." COLUMN SPEAKS OF "DARKNESS OF KISSINGER'S METTERNICH POLICY" AND "THE PAIR'S" VIRTUAL THREAT TO REST OF WORLD OF "TOTAL NUCLEAR DESTRUCTION IF IT AS MUCH AS COUGHS WITHOUT AMERICA'S SAY-SO...AMERICA IS NOT PHOENIX RISING FROM THE ASHES. IT IS A DRUNKEN JOHN WAYNE SHOOTING INDISCRIMINATELY AT INDIANS." NEITHER MEDIA HERE NOR ZAMBIA NEWS AGENCY (ZANA) HAVE CARRIED ANYTHING ABOUT PRESIDENT'S AND SECRETARY'S EUROPEAN TRIP ON WHICH SUCH COMMENTARY MIGHT, EVEN WITH EXTRAORDINARY STRETCH OF IMAGINATION AND PARTICULAR DISLIKE FOR US, CONCEIVABLY BE BASED.

2. SINCE TIMES EDITOR-IN-CHIEF IS GRZ APPOINTEE, WE BELIEVE WE HAVE BASIS ON WHICH TO MAKE STRONG HIGH LEVEL EXPRESSION TO GRZ OF OUR DEEP CONCERN OVER POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS FOR US-ZAMBIAN RELATIONS.

3. ZAMBIAN MEDIA TREATMENT OF US HAS LONG BEEN GROSSLY  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LUSAKA 01009 040800Z

UNBALANCED, UNFAIR, AND OFTEN FOUNDED ON FICTION. (YOUR

MAY 19 LETTER TO PAO BURNS ON THIS GENERAL PROBLEM HAS JUST  
ARRIVED AS THIS MESSAGE BEING PREPARED.) TIMES JUNE 1  
DIATRIBE, HOWEVER, IS HIGH POINT (SO FAR) IN CRESCENDO OF

MEDIA (ESPECIALLY TIMES) CASTIGATION OF US GOING BACK TO  
DAVIS APPOINTMENT AND CARRYING ON THROUGH KAUNDA VISIT,  
IMPASSE IN MIDEAST PEACE EFFORTS, INDO-CHINA DEBACLE, AND  
MAYAGUEZ AFFAIR (E.G., LUSAKA 0916, 0906, 0907, 0721, 0338).  
THOUGH TIMES IS STILL LONHRO CONTROLLED, PENDING COMPLETION  
NEGOTIATIONS WE UNDERSTAND GOING ON FOR GRZ OR UNIP PURCHASE  
OF PAPER, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF IS KAUNDA APPOINTEE AND EDITORIAL  
POLICY AT LEAST FROM TIME TO TIME OBVIOUSLY INFLUENCED IF NOT  
DICTATED BY STATE HOUSE. HAVE LITTLE DOUBT JUNE 1 PIECE  
CAME FROM ACERBIC PEN OF DEPUTY EDITOR BILL SAIDI (WHO IS LIKELY  
FURIOUS OVER SUCCESSFUL RESCUE OF MAYAGUEZ AND ITS CREW). HE  
MAY HAVE WRITTEN THIS PARTICULAR COLUMN WITHOUT SPECIAL  
GUIDANCE. HOWEVER, FAILURE OF GRZ TO CURB THIS OR EARLIER  
MANIFESTATIONS SAIDI'S BLATANTLY AMQI-AMERICAN COMMENTARIES  
MUST LEAD US TO ASSUME THESE ATTACKS ARE CONDONED IF NOT  
ENCOURAGED BY SENIOR ZAMBIAN OFFICIALS.

4. PREPARATORY TO HIGHER LEVEL DISCUSSIONS WHICH YOU  
MAY WISH HAVE ON THIS AND OTHER ASPECTS US-ZAMBIAN  
RELATIONS WHEN YOU RETURN (AT WHICH TIME YOU WILL HAVE  
RESULTS OF MORE EXTENSIVE RESEARCH REQUESTED IN YOUR  
MAY 19 LETTER), I PROPOSE RAISE JUNE 1 EDITORIAL ORALLY  
WITH MIN STATE SILWIZYA IN COURSE OF OTHER BUSINESS WE  
HAVE TO TAKE UP. NEW FONMIN BANDA, AS YOU KNOW, STILL IN  
NEW YORK AND ACTING FONMIN IS CHIKWANDA, WHO NOT  
LIKELY BE PARTICULARLY USEFUL CHANNEL FOR EXPRESSION OUR  
CONCERN AND PRESENTLY VISITING DAR IN ANY EVENT.  
(PRESIDENT, INCIDENTALLY, HAS JUST TAKEN OFF FOR  
3-WEEK WORKING HOLIDAY AT MFUWE.) BURNS WILL ALSO TAKE  
IT UP WITH EDITOR PUNABANTU, BUT AS YOU WELL AWARE FROM OUR  
PAST EXPERIENCE, THAT IS MOST LIKELY TO BE UNPRODUCTIVE.

5. WOULD PROPOSE TO SPEAK TO SILWIZYA ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:  
HESITATE TO RAISE MATTER PAINFUL TO US APPEARING IN ZAMBIAN  
PRESS WHICH, AS IS PROPER, HAS DUTY TO EXPRESS OPINION AND  
PUBLISH NEWS FREELY. THE BITTER AND OUTRAGIOUSLY PERSONAL  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LUSAKA 01009 040800Z

TIMES ATTACK ON THE LEADERS OF A FRIENDLY COUNTRY WHO HAVE  
JUST CORDIALLY RECEIVED PRESIDENT KAUNDA, HOWEVER, OBVIOUSLY  
CANNOT PASS UNNOTICED. POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS FOR OUR  
RELATIONS ARE MATTER OF DEEP CONCERN BECAUSE GRZ IS INEVITABLY  
ASSOCIATED IN SOME MEASURE WITH TIMES EDITORIAL POLICY SINCE  
THE EDITOR IS APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF. IF THIS  
PARTICULAR INSTANCE WERE ISOLATED OCCURRENCE, IT COULD PERHAPS  
BE VIEWED IN SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT LIGHT. UNFORTUNATELY,

THAT IS NOT THE CASE. IT IS LATEST AND, FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW, THE MOST OMINOUS IN A SERIES OF RECENT LOCAL PRESS ATTACKS OF GROWING INTENSITY--THE BASELESS "SNUB" EDITORIAL WHICH NEARLY CLOUDED THE KAUNDA VISIT, THE EQUALLY BASELESS EDITORIAL FALSELY ASSERTING GHANA HEAD OF STATE HAD REFUSED TO RECEIVE ASST SECY DAVIS, AND SUBSEQUENT TIMES--AND MAIL, FOR THAT MATTER--FAILURE TO CORRECT SITUATION BY PUBLISHING ZANA REPORT DAVIS HAD BEEN RECEIVED BY HEADS OF STATE OF GHANA, LIBERIA, IVORY COAST, CAMEROON, GABON, AND UNBALANCED TREATMENT OF INDO-CHINA COLLAPSE AND MAYAGUEZ AFFAIR. ONE IS INESCAPABLY OBLIGED TO ASK WHETHER THIS EDITORIAL POLICY, AND MOST PARTICULARLY THE PERSONAL ATTACKS ON THE PRESIDENT OF THE US AND HIS SEC STATE, IN SOME MANNER REFLECTS THE VIEWS OF THE GRZ. IF NOT, WE HOPE WAYS CAN BE FOUND TO CORRECT ERRONEOUS CONCLUSIONS BOTH HERE AND IN THE US ABOUT THE STATE OF OUR RELATIONS.

6. IF YOU AGREE, I WOULD SUGGEST TO SILWIZYA I EXPECT YOU WILL WISH TO DISCUSS MATTER FURTHER AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL UPON YOUR RETURN.  
NELSON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, FOREIGN RELATIONS, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 03 MAY 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975LUSAKA01009  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750194-1030  
**From:** LUSAKA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750583/aaaacxuw.tel  
**Line Count:** 136  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ShawDG  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 02 SEP 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <02 SEP 2003 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <17 DEC 2003 by ShawDG>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** EDITORIAL ATTACK ON PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY  
**TAGS:** PFOR, SOPN, ZA, US, (FORD, GERALD R), (KISSINGER, HENRY A)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006